

PRESS RELEASE



The Cleveland Museum of Art

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PORTRAITURE: THE IMAGE OF THE INDIVIDUAL

More than eighty portraits have been drawn from all areas of the Museum collections for this special exhibition, Portraiture: The Image of the Individual, which opened November 22 and will close on January 22, 1984. Michael Cunningham, curator of Japanese art, and David Ditner, research assistant for later Western art, have chosen works that raise questions about the very nature of portraiture. Since a good portrait is more than a mere physical likeness, how does the artist capture the sitter's personality and character, social or official status?

The exhibition is divided into sections that emphasize one or another aspect of portraiture. There are realistic, fashionable, intimate, emblematic, official, and miniature portraits; there are portraits of people who inhabited the artist's world--actors, writers, other artists--and of oddities or freaks who were on the fringes of society, like the seventeenth-century Spanish jester Calabazas, painted by Velázquez, or the nineteenth-century Japanese giant Ozorabuzaemon, portrayed by Kazan. Works by Rembrandt, Hals, Rubens, Rodin, Degas, Whistler, and many other important artists are featured in the exhibition. Included are paintings, photographs, prints, sculpture, and other objects in a variety of media from many cultures and historical periods.

Extensive labels accompany each section of the exhibition, and a free pamphlet summarizing the show is available at the Bookstore and in the upper special exhibition gallery.

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For additional information or photographs, please contact the Public Information Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.